

Policy, trade and value chains program



Photo credit: ILRI/Jo Cadilhon

This program hosts many of ILRI's agricultural economists and it contributes to ILRI's objective of achieving better lives through livestock.

Our research objective is to understand public policies on one hand, institutions and organizations created by market stakeholders on the other, and how these affect the performance of domestic and international agri-food value chains.

The program conducts research to understand value chain issues related to their performance, upgrading, innovations, and agricultural competitiveness with a strong focus on livestock products and on smallholder production systems.

Through the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System for Eastern and Central Africa (ReSAKSS-ECA), our program, works on regional trade issues and plays a vital role in supporting multi-stakeholder platforms to gather proof on outcome-based planning and the execution of agricultural-sector policies and strategies in Africa.

The program's team members have expertise in devising tailored tools and methods for policy monitoring, policy evaluation, and value chain analysis. We can help development practitioners and other researchers identify and value potential market demand for their products and services. We can assist policy makers in understanding the impacts of their current and future policies on market stakeholders.

Our research methods cut across experimental, participatory action research, econometrics analysis and modelling approaches to identify, test and evaluate livestock interventions that improve the food security status of smallholders and suggest various marketing strategies for agricultural commodities across developing countries.

We also study the contributions of different value chain stakeholders within dynamic innovation systems using a fusion of quantitative and qualitative analysis approaches.

The program is strongly involved in the CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Institutions, and Markets (PIM), led by the International Food Policy Research Institute. We also participate in the CGIAR Research Program on Livestock and Fish, led by ILRI as well as the Humidtropics, Dryland systems and Agriculture for Nutrition and Health CGIAR Research Programs.

Our strategy is to elaborate tailored analytical and methodological tools to achieve a robust understanding of value chains and other complex multi-stakeholder agri-food systems, which can be leveraged to attain meaningful value chain development outcomes.

Some of our research projects have been supported by the Governments of Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland as well as the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU.

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The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) works with partners worldwide to enhance the roles that livestock play in food security and poverty alleviation, principally in Africa and Asia. The outcomes of these research partnerships help people in developing countries keep their farm animals alive and productive, increase and sustain their livestock and farm productivity, find profitable markets for their animal products, and reduce the risk of livestock-related diseases.

ILRI's mission is to improve food and nutritional security and to reduce poverty in developing countries through research for efficient, safe and sustainable use of livestock—ensuring better lives through livestock. Working closely with its partners, ILRI's three strategic objectives are:

- develop, test, adapt and promote science-based practices that—being sustainable and scalable—achieve better lives through livestock.
- provide compelling scientific evidence in ways that persuade decision-makers—from farms to boardrooms and parliaments—that smarter policies and bigger livestock investments can deliver significant socioeconomic, health and environmental dividends to both poor nations and households.
- increase capacity among ILRI's key stakeholders and the institute itself so that they can make better use of livestock science and investments for better lives through livestock.

ILRI's skills and expertise include our three main pillars for animal production—animal health, feeds and genetics—as well as, and more specifically: biology, molecular biology, microbiology, epidemiology, biotechnology, diagnostics and vaccine development; ecology, agricultural systems and agricultural value chains; sociology, gender and poverty analysis, participatory research and impact assessment; market economics; and development communications and knowledge sharing.

ILRI is a not-for-profit institution with a staff of about 700 and, in 2013, an operating budget of about USD 74 million. A member of the CGIAR Consortium working for a food-secure future, ILRI has its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, a principal campus in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and offices in other countries in East, West and Southern Africa and in South, Southeast and East Asia.

ILRI leads the CGIAR Research Program on Livestock and Fish, leads a component of a CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health on the prevention and control of agriculture-associated diseases, and contributes to seven other CGIAR research programs. Staff members work in integrated sciences and biosciences programs that develop and deliver science-based practices, provide scientific evidence for decision-making and develop capacities of livestock-sector stakeholders. With the African Union/New Partnership for Africa's Development Planning and Coordination Agency, ILRI also hosts and manages the Biosciences eastern and central Africa (Beca)-ILRI Hub.



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ILRI is a member of the CGIAR Consortium

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